



ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

Mission: To provide all community members with diverse recreational opportunities including access to premier natural, historical and cultural areas that enhance our quality of life and inspire the preservation of nature.

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BRING ON SPRING!

Springtime is just around the corner with the return of many birds and melting off of the last remnants of snow. Pretty soon the parks will be active with youth soccer, adult softball, pickleball, and hiking out on the trails. Spring is a great time to get outside to the parks and trails for healthy exercise, fresh air, and rejuvenation after the long winter days. Details on the parks, preserves, and trails in and around Ada Township can be found on page 6.

Please take time to review the upcoming events and programs in this newsletter. Save the dates for the ones that interest you and pre-register where it is requested. In addition to spring activities, highlights of summer programs and community events are included too. Be sure to check out our website or Facebook page for updates. Signing up for our mailing lists is another great way to get updates.



Photo by T. Whitley

UPDATES, NEWS & MORE

Roselle Park had a lot of improvements made last year on the parking lot located by the silo. Most of that work is completed, but we will have a few final touches to do once the weather warms up. Thanks for everyone's patience as we wrap up that improvement project.

Leonard Field Park will see a series of improvements this summer along the riverside of the park. The Riverfront Improvement Project will start in the early summer and wrap up in the fall. The project will update the two riverside decks, access to the river, accessibility, and vegetation along the riverbank. We will try to keep the community informed of actual construction dates and days when the parking lot or trail may be closed. Pledges and donations to help this project are currently being accepted. For details, contact the Parks Office.



Trail projects will continue this summer. Last year we put in a new section of trail along Pettis, and we aim to complete the section from Chief Hazy Cloud Park down to Fulton this summer. In addition, we are planning to develop a new section that will run from Legacy Park up to the south side of Fulton, then go under the bridge by the Grand River and connect to the north side of Fulton. These are all parts of our plans to make better connections within Ada Township and to connect our local trails with adjoining communities.

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ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Enrichment programs are designed to provide exposure and experience in an educational setting to learn more about various subject areas.



Fitness & Fall Prevention for the Aging Population

Friday, April 21st | 10:00am-11:30am | Roselle Park \$10/person

Join us as Cascade Clinic Manager Ben Eggleston from The Center for Physical Rehabilitation will be on site sharing a presentation on how we can lead a healthier & improved quality of life as we age. Bring your thoughts, questions, and concerns for a Q & A wrap up at the end.



Nature & Landscape Phone Photography Workshop

Saturday, May 20th | 9:30am-10:30am | Roselle Park \$10/person | \$35/family

Bring the family and your phones! Erik Holladay-McCann from Holladay Photography will be on site to teach basic composition and lighting. We will also be taking a closer look at some of the fun hidden features on your device and how you can utilize these tools to capture your own high quality shots.



Ada Township Photography Club Free Informational Session

Thursday, April 27th | 6:30pm-7:30pm | AVA Library

We are excited to announce the start of our new Photography Club! Come join us at the Amy Van Andel Library to gather information on how this club will operate, what you'll learn, items you may need, and how to get involved. You'll also meet the Club Instructor, Erik Holladay-McCann, from Holladay Photography. Club Membership fees total \$45/year.



YOUTH PROGRAMMING DAYS



Sports Field Day

June 6, 9:00am-12:00pm
Ada Park

Learn and experience a variety of sports while competing in fun games and activities throughout the morning.

Cost: \$20/Child. Ages: 8-12



Michigan Wildlife Day

July 27, 9:00am-12:00pm
Roselle Park

Learn about local wildlife, see live animals, play fun games, explore wildlife habitats and take a hike through the park.

Cost: \$20/Child. Ages: 8-12



Pioneer Day

August 3 9:00am-12:00pm
Ada History Center Museum

Immerse yourself in historic Ada! Experience life as a child in the 1800s through exploring in the museum, playing games and crafts.

Cost: \$20/Child. Ages: 8-12



SPORTS & FITNESS PROGRAMS

Sports & Fitness programs are designed to provide community members the opportunity to engage in active recreation with one another, compete in a variety of sports, and pursue fitness goals.

Yin Yoga Classes

Thursday's until April 27th | 8:00am-9:00am | AVA Library

\$15/drop in class | \$80/6 class bundle

Start your Thursday mornings with us - Yin Yoga is a slower meditative practice which focuses on holding poses for longer periods of time. In addition to standard muscle groups, it targets deep connective tissues increasing elasticity and aiding in joint mobility.



Ada Township Adult Softball Leagues

Tuesday and Wednesday evenings | Ada Park and Leonard Field

Registration Deadline: April 10th | \$735/team

Registration for the 2023 Season is underway! Games will begin the week of May 8th with the Men's League competing on Tuesday nights, and the COED League on Wednesday nights. Each league will consist of 10 regular season games followed by a post-season tournament. Teams will be sorted into gold and silver divisions based upon desired playing and experience level. Team managers are responsible for registering their teams and must do so by requesting a team registration thru email: wdeason@adatownshipmi.com

Pickleball Tournament

July 29th & 30th | Ada Township Park

Registration Opens May 1st | \$40/player

We're looking forward to offering another great tournament for our community! You won't want to miss out on this year's event. We will have a variety of divisions and skill levels for players to compete in as you battle it out for the top spots.

Interested in sponsoring this event? We'd love to partner with you or your organization

Contact us below for more info.



Youth Tennis Clinics

June/July/August

We will be offering youth tennis instructional clinics beginning in June! More details will be provided when available. Please contact us to get more information.



Grand Rapids Triathlon

June 10 and 11

Grand Rapids Triathlon is the largest independent triathlon in Michigan. Both days features triathlon, duathlon, aquabike, relay and swim-only events.

Register @ grandrapidstri.com

NOTE: This event has Saturday and Sunday road closures on Buttrick Ave and Thornapple Drive

STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES

Stewardship initiatives and programs are designed to educate community members on the responsible and careful management practices essential to preserving our natural areas and resources.

Spring Garlic Mustard Challenge

Residents are encouraged to join in the spring “Garlic Mustard Challenge” by removing this invasive plant from their property, properly disposing it, and reporting totals to the Stewardship Network. www.stewardshipnetwork.org

Garlic mustard is an invasive plant that diminishes native woodland and forest plants and ecosystems. Few native animals feed on it. It has an odor similar to garlic when crushed and serves as a food source for some people. It can be recognized in the spring by its cluster of leaves and white four petal flowers at the end of the stalk.



To remove Garlic mustard, it is best to do so in the spring before the white flowers turn to seed pods. Pulling the plants out by hand is often the best method so you are sure to get the roots. Pulled plants should be packed into garbage bags and placed in the trash. Do not put the plants into other yard waste or compost piles in that the seeds could still spread. Additional information can be found through MSU Extension at: www.canr.msu.edu/news/garlic_mustard_may_be_michigans_worst_woodland_weed



Stewardship Volunteer Opportunities

Stewardship Volunteer opportunities usually include outdoor work in the parks and preserves assisting with native plant gardens, habitat improvements, removing invasive plants and other tasks. Individuals and groups are welcome. Outdoor work clothing is recommended. Gloves, tools and snacks provided. Contact the Park office to sign up or schedule.

Please contact us for more details on schedules and to find an opportunity that might be right for you.



Earth Day is April 22!

Get involved on your own or join us this year for Earth Day!

Stewardship Work Day, April 22, 9:00 am. – 12:00 noon

Join us at Leonard Field and Legacy Parks to work as part of a team of volunteers to clean up the parks, pull Garlic Mustard and Yellow Rocket, pick up trash and plant some shrubs.

Take time in your own yard or community property to clean up trash, remove invasive plants, plant new native plants, plant trees, start recycling, walk or ride instead of drive and help in other ways as you can.

For more details and ideas on what you and your family and friends can do see:

www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/



COMMUNITY EVENTS

2023 Summer Concert Series

Legacy Park, 7430 River Street



Music On The Lawn

Wednesdays, 7pm-9pm

Partnership with the Ada Historical Society

June 14: That Beatles Thing (Beatles Tribute)

June 21: Pretzel Logic (Classic Rock)

June 28: Adams Family (60's Throwback)

July 12: Frog King (Neil Diamond Tribute)

July 19: Bare Naked 90's (90's Throwback)

July 26: Asamu Johnson (Blues)

August 2: Prior Noon (Country)

August 9: Rhythm Section Jazz (Jazz)

August 16: Kari Lynch Band (Country)

August 23: Soni-Matic (Classic Rock)



Beers At The Bridge

Third Fridays, 6pm-9pm

NEW LOCATION

Hosted by the Ada Township DDA

Beer tents hosted by Gravel Bottom Brewing

June 16: The Soul Syndicate (R&B, Funk)

July 21: Megan Rae Band (Country)

August 18: Thirsty Perch Blues Band (Country)



Vintage Baseball Game

Saturday, May 13 at Ada Park, 5:00pm

Presented by the Ada Historical Society. A free event to celebrate the history of baseball in Ada. Lawn chairs and blankets welcome.



4th Of July Celebration

Celebrate the holiday throughout the Township with a parade, food vendors, kid activities, an evening concert and fireworks.



Want a full calendar of events?

Scan the QR code to be directed to our online events calendar!

Community & Special Event Volunteers

Whether you are an individual, couple, large group, or an organization, volunteers are always appreciated.

Upcoming opportunities include assisting with community special events.

Please contact us for more details on schedules and to find an opportunity that might be right for you.



PARKS & PRESERVES

Ada Township Park

(1180 Buttrick Ave. SE.)

57 acre park, amenities include: Parks & Recreation Department office, shelters, arboretum, softball & soccer fields, tennis & pickleball courts, playground, pond, trails, picnic areas.

Legacy Park

(7450 River Street, Ada MI.)

In the heart of downtown Ada with views of the Thornapple River. Includes a playground, picnic plaza, paved trail, restrooms, and the Van Andel Family Pavilion.

Gr. Riv. Natural Area

(Off Grand River Drive)

Enter this area via the Ada Moorings and explore 110 acres of trails and bike paths along the Grand River shoreline.

Roselle Park

(1010 Grand River Dr. NE)

247 acre park, amenities include: indoor restrooms, meeting room, picnic area, playground, trails, observation decks, access to the Grand River shoreline.

Leonard Field Park

(7490 Thornapple River Dr.)

A 2 acre park along the Thornapple River. Amenities include restrooms, bike path, softball field with lights, river overlook decks, and the historic Ada Covered Bridge.

Carl Creek Preserve

(6230 Grand River Drive)

An 8 acre park that includes non-paved trails, walking bridges and creek access.

Trails System

Our trail system is located throughout the Township. We have over 20 miles of paved trails and boardwalks that allow folks to get active and enjoy nature. Maps available!

Kent County Parks

Chief Hazy Cloud Park (150 Pettis Ave.)

Seidman Park (8155 Conservation Rd.)

kentcountyparks.org

PARK RULES

Park Hours: dawn - dusk.

Dog Policy: all dogs to be leashed & picked up after.

Alcohol is not allowed in the parks or park facilities.

Motorized recreation vehicles are not allowed on trails

FACILITY RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

DID YOU KNOW? Ada Township Parks & Recreation offers a wide variety of facility rentals for your personal, business or non-profit. See some of our featured sites below.



Roselle Park - Resource Building
Capacity: (varies) 65-75



Ada Park - Shelter Pavilion
Capacity: 45-60



Amy Van Andel Library - Comm Room 1
Capacity: 40-65



Ada Park - Triple Gazebo
Capacity: 48



Ada Park - Pickleball Courts
Capacity: 4 people/court



FOR ADDITIONAL INFO & PRICING